India through bringing in more area under castor cultivation and using improved hybrid castorseeds;

(b) whether Government are aware that Castor oil and its value added derivatives are much sought after in international markets, fetching a good price for the grower; and

(c) whether Government would consider subsidising castor seed cultivation in new areas like Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Castor oil and its derivatives are in good demand in international market and castrol oil is being exported in substantial quantity from our country.

(c) Assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) to promote production of castor seed in castor growing States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

4053. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Fund for Agricultural Dvelopment (IFAD) is looking for new projects to fund in India, in the areas of rural integrated development and poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, whether any particular project has so far been identified for such assistance and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government has received any such proposal from the Government of Karnataka seeking assistance from overseas funding agenices, and if so, whether the Central Government would propose such proposal for IFAD assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Support Prices for Crops

4054. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the support prices fixed by Government of India for the current crops of wheat, gram, oil-seeds, etc. in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the support prices for the products of above crops at the time of their arrival in the market in view of the high cost of production and increase in the prices of diesel and power and agricultural machinery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The minimum support prices fixed by the Government for the current rabi crops of 1993-94 to be marketed in 1994-95 are as follows :—

Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Price (Rs. per Quintal)
Wheat . . .	FAQ	350
Barley . . .	,,	275
Gram . . .	,,	640
Rapeseed/Mustard .	,,	810
Safflower . . .	,,	760
Toria . . .	,,	780

(b) At present there is no proposal under consideration to enhance support prices already fixed for the current rabi crop. The minimum support prices have been fixed after taking into account the report of the CACP views of the State Governments, concerned Central ministries and relevant factors.

Bureaucracy in ICAR and Allied Institutions

4055. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR and allied institutions which are very vital for research education and extension of agriculture in the country have become bureaucratic and thus outdated and absolete education is prevalent in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether Indian farmers are lacking behind farmers of foreign countries in agricultural products/production;

(c) whether in view of the onslaught of the GATT agreement and liberalisation of policies,the ICAR and allied institutions will be able to cope with challenges of low agricultural production; and

(d) whether Government propose to revamp the ICAR and allied institutions to make these a vehicle of change, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Taking into consideration the present level of progress in agricultural production in the country, the Indian farmers are not lagging behind the foreign farmers both in agricultural products and production technology. The Indian farmers are quite capable of adopting new technology.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

Kamal Nayan Kabra Committee on Oil Seed and Oil Seed Products

4056. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted by the Oilseeds and Oil Exchange of Bombay to Kamal Nayan Kabra Committee appointed to go into the oilseed and oilseed products ;

(b) if so, whether it has been recommended that it is high time now for the country to resume future trading in oilseeds and oilseed products;

(c) whether the Oilseed and Oil Exchange have pointed out that shortage in oilseeds has now virtually disappeared and it may not be long before even surplus may emerge in some of the oil seeds;

(d) whether the Committee has accepted these recommendations; and

(e) if so, by when they are likely to submit their report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Committee has not yet submitted its report. As per the available indications the Committee is likely to submit its report by end of June, 1994.

Damage to Pepper Cultivation

4057. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study or survey has been conducted by the Central Government since January, 1990 to study the damage caused to pepper cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in the negative, whether Government would constitute a high level team to study and survey the damage caused to pepper cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three surveys were conducted. The details are as under :—

(i) The Committee constituted in March, 1990 with the representatives of National Research Centre for Spices, Government of Kerala, Kerala Agricultural University and Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Spices Development to study the problem of quick wilt disease of pepper in Idukki and Wynad Districts noted that there was large scale death of vines due to the disease and loss ranged from 30-100%. It was observed by the Committee that 3259 hectare of pepper gardens in Idukki and 4731 hectare in Wynad districts were completely damaged due to the disease attack.

(ii) The Central Team constituted in October, 1991 with Members from Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, National Research Centre for Spices and Government of Kerala to survey the Wynad and Idukki Districts and assess the intensity of loss due to quick wilt disease of pepper reported that the loss due to disease varied between zones and in some pockets it was as high as 100%. On an average, the loss was put at 70%.

(iii) The Team constituted in October, 1991 consisting of representatives from National Research Centre for Spices, Government of Kerala, Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Spices Development and Pepper Research Station, Panniyur to study the incidence of the disease of black pepper in Alakode area of Kannur District observed that the disease incidence is around 20-30% and in certain areas beyond 50%.

(c) Does not arise.

गेहूं का अनुमानित उत्पादन

4058. श्री राघवजी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1994 के दौरान गेहूं का कितना उत्पादन होने की संभावना है;

(ख) समर्थन मूल्य पर गेहूं की खरीद के लिए क्या व्यवस्था की गई है; और